

CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	REPORT	
TOPIC <u>Gadow-Rossow Bomb Range</u>	25X1	25X1
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1
DATE OBTAINED	E PREPARED <u>26 October 1955</u>	25X1
REFERENCES		
PAGES <u>3</u> ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS		
This is UNEVALUATED Information		
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1. The following observations were made at Gadow-Rossow bomb range between 24 July and 10 August 1955:

24 July. The bomb target in Jagen (forest sub-district) 70 was re-established. The circle around the target was newly chalked and a red sheet-metal flag was mounted on a pole in the middle of the circle. There were several bomb craters 5 to 6 meters in diameter and 2 to 5 meters deep.

24 July to 10 August. Bombing was practiced by individual IL-28s from an average altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters. The aircraft approached from the direction of Rossow and headed toward Zechlin. It was once observed in late July that a formation of 9 IL-28s approached in 3 flights, close behind each other. The aircraft crossed over the training field in close-order formation but did not drop bombs. During starry nights, individual IL-28s approached from the direction of Rossow and each aircraft dropped one bomb with tracer composition, from 1,500 to 2,000 meters over the northwestern corner of Jagen 23.

July. It was observed that the operating personnel of Glashuette observation tower was increased to about 30 men, who wore black-bordered blue epaulets. The personnel were quartered in a small temporary building and tents.

2. The following observations were at the training field between 12 August and 23 September 1955:

12/13 August. During that night, bombs were dropped over the field, apparently by jet aircraft flying at very high altitude. No illuminated targets were seen on the training ground. The bombs made craters 9.6 to 10 meters in diameter and about 4 meters deep. The upper 2-meter layer of the crater was sand, the next layer clay about 1.8 meters deep, and the third layer lime

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20 to 25 cm. Some bombs landed east of the training field between the villages of Wallitz and Zechlin.

22 to 26 August. Bombing was practiced both at daytime and during the night. Bombing was also accomplished in entirely overcast weather. During most of the daytime practices, only vapor trails were observed. The aircraft, which approached from the south, often flew in formations of 4 or 5, and each plane dropped 2 bombs in rapid succession. Sometimes, the type aircraft could not be definitely determined. The IL-28s flew individually and in formations of up to 25. They dropped their bombs from very high altitudes, without changing formation. It was definitely observed that the individual aircraft practiced salvo bombing, releasing 3 bombs. Signals for releasing the bombs were not noticed. After bombing, the aircraft mostly headed towards the northeast. The training field was entirely blocked-off by air force soldiers. During the night practices, which were mostly held between 2100 and about 0200, the following observations were made:

Three lighting facilities were located near the installation: a searchlight in line with Alt Lutterow, directing its beam almost horizontal on the ground toward the east; an intermittent light in the direction of Neuruppin airfield; and a second intermittent light in the direction of Fuerstenberg. An aircraft, coming from the south, approached the searchlight at a comparatively low altitude, as could be inferred from the sound of its engines. When this aircraft had crossed over the searchlight, all 3 lights were switched off. From the sound of this aircraft's engines, it is believed that the aircraft headed east. The type of aircraft could not be determined. Exactly 5 minutes later, another aircraft approached from the south. Suddenly, a loud roaring noise was heard from 3 bombs, which had been released in salvo, as they detonated at an altitude of 200 to 400 meters. The sound heard corresponded to that of a heavy bomb, but there was no earthquake. During the detonations, each bomb was at first accompanied by a glaring white light which quickly changed its color to yellow, pink, and red before extinguishing. This whole procedure lasted only a few moments. It appeared that the bombs had detonated over the ground. There was an interval of about 4 seconds between the individual detonations. There was complete darkness when the bombs were dropped. Subsequently, the aircraft headed east. After about 5 minutes, the 3 lights were again switched on and the next aircraft appeared. This procedure was repeated every 15 minutes. The detonations were observed approximately in the Hammelstall area in Jagen 107-120, and in the Lutterow area in Jagen 22-29. These Jagen sections, which were almost free of trees, and looked to be approximately square. During each detonation, the area was brightly illuminated for a short moment.

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17 to 23 September. Every day, bombing was practiced from IL-28s which flew from southeast to northwest in formations of 9:

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All aircraft dropped their bombs at the same time from a very high altitude and without changing formation. They were mostly recognized, only by their vapor trails. Each formation apparently made only one approach. There was usually an interval of 60 to 90 minutes before the next formation appeared for bombing. In the meantime, bombs were dropped from individual aircraft, which flew at such very high altitudes that it was almost impossible to determine what type aircraft were involved. The individual aircraft dropped 2 or 3 bombs on each run, while the aircraft flying in formation released only 1 bomb each. The exercises also continued at night. No bomb targets were recognized. Also at night, there were no occulting lights or target markings observed.

Comment. The observations made at Gadow-Rossow bomb range show that there was an increased training activity in bombing during daytime and at night. Formations of up to 25 aircraft simultaneously dropped bombs. This is the first information that, during night training, the individual aircraft dropped bombs, which detonated at an altitude of 200 to 400 meters, and that a glaring white explosion light was seen. A flash bomb would have exploded at a higher distance from the ground without causing a heavy detonation.

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